Mr. Haynes Johnson, newsroom
The Washington Post
1150 15 St., NW
Washington, DC 20071

5/5/94

Dear Mrs. Johnson,

My sister who still lives in Wilmington sent me the enclosed review of your book in the papers I left 25 years before you did. No Sunday edition then. I was on the News.

From the review it is a much needed book that deserves the thought and attention I hope it gets.

From my own experience when I was able to speak at colleges and from my continuing heavy mail I suggest for yout thinking about the many causes of disenchantment with both the government and the media the JFK assassination and treatment of it. That the media never really made any critical examination of the government's record turned the kids off then and many others with them. then and since then.

That it lauds ever piece of the cheapest kind of commercialization and exploitation that supports the official mythology costs the media more credibility. The most recent example of this is what I believe is the most intendedly dishonest book I can remember reading as far back from 81 years as I can, Gerald Posner's knowingly mistitled Case Closed. It is an obvious fraud to anyone with any knowledge of the fact at all and he ~~his~~ is a killed shyster. But save for the excellent Post review by Jeffrey Frank and one with a small column by Patricia Holt in the S.F Chronicle, and save for another that was overloaded with factual error, it got only unquestioning raves. TV fell all over itself to air him. US News gave it much of an issue and just about all the magazines fell in to line. Nobody did any checking at all. Yet when after all that and after many of his TV appearances, CBS took a poll preparatory to his appearance on its special, those who do not believe the Report jumped from 80% to 90% after all that uninhibited and so often repeated endorsements of him and his book.

My Case Open, rather rushed and reduced in size to be able to sell it for less, which exposes him as a plagiarizer, from a boy at that, as a liar and as many other things, now in the stores a month or more, has gotten no mention of which I know and no reporters or reviewers have phoned to ask me a question.

This kind of thing, which the average person does notice and many write me about, turns even more off on the media. Which has earned this lack of trust.

How can the system work without the media informing the people, and when it earns popular mistrust, does not that in itself undermine the system?

I'm particularly sorry that the media itself does not face this and does not understand that it is its own worst enemy.

Good luck with a book that so well deserves it.

Harold Weisberg

Sincerely,
Harold Weisberg